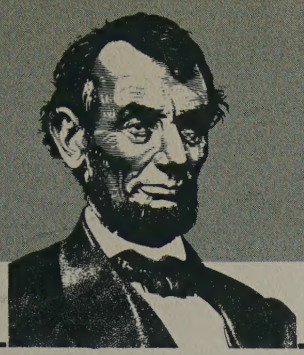

Lincoln Lore

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THE BANCROFT ORATION

On December 18, 1865, the Honorable E. B. Washburne of Illinois moved that the House of Representatives take up the message from the Senate relative to the death of the late president.

The motion was agreed to.

The Speaker laid before the House the following:

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

December 18, 1865

Whereas the melancholy event of the violent and tragic death of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States, having occurred during the recess of Congress, and the two Houses sharing in the general grief, and desiring to manifest their sensibility upon the occasion of the public bereavement: Therefore.

Be it resolved by the Senate, (the House of Representatives concurring,) That the two Houses of Congress will assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Monday, the 12th day of February next, that being his anniversary birthday, at the hour of twelve meridian; and that in the presence of the two Houses then assembled, an address upon the life and character of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States, be pronounced by Hon. Edwin M. Stanton; and that the President of the Senate *pro tempore,* and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be requested to invite the President of the United States, the heads of the several Departments, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the representatives of foreign Governments near this Government, and such officers of the Army and Navy as have received the thanks of Congress who may then be at the seat of Government, to be present on the occasion.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Lincoln, and to assure her of the profound sympathy of the two Houses of Congress for her deep personal affliction, and of their sincere condolence for the late national bereavement.

Attest: John W. Forney,
Secretary.

With the message before the House Mr. Washburne then moved that the resolution providing for a memorial oration be concurred in, and the resolutions were unanimously concurred in.

Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, was first considered for the honor of giving the oration, because of his close association with President Abraham Lincoln. The conferring of this honor on Stanton was thought most appropriate in mid-December of 1865. However, before the anniversary date of February 12, 1866 arrived, the Secretary of War was aligned with the Radicals and he manifested little sympathy with the reconstruction policies of the late president.

Secretary Stanton refused the honor and he stated in a letter to the historian George Bancroft that "regard for my health required me to decline what would otherwise have been felt an imperative duty. You ought to perform it . . ."

George Bancroft, by birth and early surroundings a New England Brahmin, was acceptable to the Congressional Committee as the orator for the Lincoln birthday anniversary service, because his views were almost identical to Lincoln's and naturally to President Andrew Johnson's.

Bancroft was a powerful and effective public speaker. It was

IN MEMORIAM
OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
The Martyr President of the United States.

ORATION
OF THE
HON. GEORGE BANCROFT,
THE HISTORIAN,
AT THE REQUEST OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS,
IN THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES,
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1866.

"To express gratitude to God, in the name of the people, for the preservation of the United States, is my first duty in addressing you. Our thoughts next revert to the death of the late President by an act of parricidal treason. The grief of the nation is still fresh; it finds some solace in the consideration that he lived to enjoy the highest proof of its confidence by entering on the renewed term of the Chief Magistracy to which he had been elected; that he brought the civil war substantially to a close; that his loss was deplored in all parts of the Union; and that foreign nations have rendered justice to his memory."

Such were the tender and fitting words in which Andrew Johnson, the President of the United States, on the 5th of December last, in his annual message, announced to Congress, the assassination of his predecessor. The great heart of the nation had been convulsed by the dire event, and the representatives of the people promptly resolved to give expression to the national sympathy. The President's message having been read, on the motion of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, the House of Representatives

Resolved, That a committee of one member from each State represented in this House be appointed on the part of this House to join such committee as may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to consider and report by what token of respect and affection it may be proper for the Congress of the United States to express the deep sensibility of the nation to the event of the decease of their late President, Abraham Lincoln, and that so much of the message of the President as refers to that melancholy event be referred to said committee.

On the motion of the Hon. Solomon Foot, of Vermont, the *Pater Senatus,* the Senate concurred, and the following joint committee was appointed—thirteen on the part of the Senate and one for every State represented (twenty-four) on the part of the House of Representatives:

Senate.	House of Representatives.
Hon. Solomon Foot.....Vt.	Hon. Elihu B. Washburne.....Ill.
Hon. Richard Yates.....Ill.	Hon. James G. Blaine.....Me.
Hon. Benj. F. Wade.....Ohio.	Hon. James W. Patterson....N. H.
Hon. Wm. Pitt Fessenden....Me.	Hon. Justin S. Morrill.....Vt.
Hon. Henry Wilson.....Mass.	Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks...Mass.
Hon. James R. Doolittle.....Wis.	Hon. Thomas A. Jenckes....R. I.
Hon. Jas. H. Lane .....Ka.	Hon. Henry C. Deming.....Ct.
Hon. Ira Harris.....N. Y.	Hon. John A. Griswold.....N. Y.
Hon. James W. Nesmith..Oregon.	Hon. Edwin R. V. Wright...N. J.
Hon. Henry S. Lane.....Ind.	Hon. Thaddeus Stevens.....Pa.
Hon. Waitman T. Willey...W. Va.	Hon. John A. Nicholson.....Del.
Hon. Chas. R. Bucksalew.....Pa.	Hon. Francis Thomas.....Md.
Hon. John B. Henderson.....Mo.	Hon. Robert C. Schenck....Ohio.
	Hon. George S. Shanklin.....Ky.
	Hon. Godlove S. Orth.....Ind.
	Hon. Joseph W. McClurg.....Mo.
	Hon. Fernando C. Beaman..Mich.
	Hon. John A. Kasson .....Iowa.
	Hon. Ithamar C. Sloan.....Wis.
	Hon. William Higby.....Cal.
	Hon. William Windom.....Minn.
	Hon. J. H. D. Henderson..Oregon.
	Hon. Sidney Clarke.....Kansas.
	Hon. Kellian V. Whaley...W. Va.

That committee, by Mr. Foot, on Monday the 18th of December, made the following report, which was concurred in by both Houses *nem con.*

Whereas the melancholy event of the violent and tragic death of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States, having occurred during the recess of Congress, and the two Houses sharing in the general grief and desiring to manifest their sensibility upon the occasion of the public bereavement: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, (the House of Representatives concurring,) That the two Houses of Congress will assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on Monday, the 12th day of February next, that being his anniversary birthday, at the hour of twelve meridian, and that, in the presence of the two Houses there assembled, an address upon the life and character of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States, be pronounced by Hon. Edwin M. Stanton; and that the President of the Senate *pro tempore* and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be requested to invite the President of the United States, the heads of the several Departments, the judges of the Supreme Court, the representatives of foreign governments near this Government, and such officers of the army and navy as have received the thanks of Congress who may then be at the seat of Government, to be present on the occasion.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Lincoln, and to assure her of the profound sympathy of the two Houses of Congress for her deep personal affliction, and of their sincere condolence for the late national bereavement.

The Hon. George Bancroft, in response to an invitation, consented to deliver the address, Mr. Stanton not having accepted that which was tendered to him; and the committee maturely considered and published these

ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE
Memorial Address on the Life and Character of
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
To be delivered at the request of both Houses of the Congress of the United States, before them, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, by
HON. GEORGE BANCROFT,
On the 12th of February, 1866.

The Capitol will be closed on the morning of the 12th to all except the members of Congress.

At ten o'clock the doors leading to the rotunda will be opened to those to whom invitations have been extended, under the joint resolution of Congress, by the presiding officers of the two Houses, and to those holding tickets of admission to the galleries issued by the chairmen of the joint committee of arrangements. The doorkeepers will have imperative orders to admit no one before ten o'clock ex-

A fragment of an unidentified newspaper clipping, concerning the oration of George Bancroft.

said that "he has the eloquence which proceeds from lucid thoughts and strong emotion. Always in earnest, often vehement, he appeals to the imagination by his impassioned rhetoric and graphic illustrations, while he masters the intellect by his power of transparent exposition and cogent argument."

In January 1866 Bancroft collected material for his memorial speech before Congress which was to meet in joint session on February 12, 1866. Russel B. Nye in his biography "George Bancroft Brahman Rebel", Alfred A. Knopf, 1944 stated that: "L. J. Farwell sent him a transcript of the testimony at the trial of the assassins, Francis Lieber wrote him a detailed account of Lincoln's relations with Halleck, the author of a new biography of Johnson sent him a copy to assist him in his remarks on Lincoln's successor, and so on."

Gideon Welles in his "Diary," Houghton Mifflin Company, 1911, Volume II, page 431 recorded that "The orator, or historian, acquitted himself very well," Welles apparently was not sorry to hear the orator say "Some things . . . which would hardly have been expected at such a time, particularly some sharp points against England and Lord John Russell . . ." Welles concluded his diary entry for Monday, February 12, 1866 with this comment concerning the English government: "Both the Minister and the Government were bad enemies of ours in our troubles; they added to these trials; they made them formidable; they intended our ruin."

Orville H. Browning attended the February 12 anniversary meeting in the Representative Hall which began about 12:30 p.m. but he found the crowd so very great that he could not get comfortably situated and he left at 1:00 o'clock p.m. However, he afterwards read the address and he considered it an able one.

For many people this occasion was not a Lincoln anniversary birthday memorial but a last solemn rite. This service was to mark the end of the long funeral pagentry which had its beginning with "Black Easter."

Reaction to the Bancroft oration was dependent upon sectional attitude and political affiliation. An editorial writer for *Harper's Weekly*, Saturday, February 24, 1866 took a non-political approach: "As the historian at the Grecian games told the traditions of the country to the assembled Greeks, so the historian of the United States has recited the latest chapter of its story to the Congress and all the chief officers of the nation."

However, the same writer expressed regret that the orator did not estimate with "a subtler sympathy" the character of Lincoln. He continued to editorialize: "But it is hard for a man of purely intellectual temperament like the historian heartily to appreciate a simpler and more emotional nature like that of the late president. Posterity will see him a greater man than his contemporaries can acknowledge."

Bancroft's own comments concerning his oration are of interest. He wrote his wife that he had been amused by the reactions that he had produced: "The drollest thing was at a part of my speech, when in enumerating the opinions of Lincoln, the radicals would applaud vehemently at one part and the friends of Johnson at another . . .; it was like touching the different keys of a piano."

The oration was published in Washington by the Government Printing Office bearing the title "Memorial Address on the Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln, Delivered, at the Request of Both Houses of The Congress of America, Before Them, in The House of Representatives at Washington, on the 12th of February, 1866." The oration constitutes the first fifty-one pages of the book and the appendix extends from pages 55 to 69.

Approximately 10,000 copies (Monaghan 841) of the sixty-nine page edition were printed, with a special eighty page edition of 100 copies containing "the correspondence occasioned by Bancroft's criticism of British policy during the Civil War." The Lincoln National Life Foundation's copy (M841) was once the property of Congressman Edward McPherson of Pennsylvania and his name is stamped in gold on the front cover.

The address was printed in full in "The Congressional Globe" under the date of February 12, 1866, pages 800-805. The topic headings of the different subjects treated, provided an outline of the address along with certain excerpts which highlight the oration:

ORATION (Introduction)

That God rules in the affairs of men is as certain as any truth of physical science. . . . Kings are lifted up or thrown down, nations come and go, republics flourish and wither, dynasties pass away like a tale that is told; but nothing is by chance, though men in their ignorance of causes may think so.

GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

The wise men of Europe sought the best Government in a mixture of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy; and America went behind these names to extract from them the vital elements of social forms, and blend them harmoniously in the free commonwealth, which comes nearest to the illustration of the natural equality of all men.

TERRITORIAL EXTENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Under her auspices the vine of liberty took deep root and filled the land; the hills were covered with its shadow; its boughs were like the goodly cedars, and reached unto both oceans.

PROPHECIES ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF SLAVERY

Neither hereditary monarchy nor hereditary aristocracy planted itself on our soil; the only hereditary condition that fastened itself upon us was servitude.

DESPAIR OF THE MEN OF THE REVOLUTION

Madison, who said "slavery is the greatest evil under which the nation labors, a portentous evil—an evil, moral, political, and economical—a sad blot on our free country," went mournfully into old age with the cheerless words, "No satisfactory plan has yet been devised for taking out the stain."

NEW VIEWS OF SLAVERY

The men of the Revolution passed away. A new generation sprang up, impatient that an institution to which they clung should be condemned as inhuman, unwise, and unjust; in the throes of discontent at the self-reproach of their fathers, and blinded by the luster of wealth to be acquired by the culture of a new staple, they devised the theory that slavery, which they would not abolish, was not evil, but good.

SLAVERY AT HOME

There remained an unconfessed consciousness that the system of bondage was wrong, and a restless memory that it was at variance with the true American tradition; its safety was therefore to be secured by political organization.

SLAVERY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

The new theory hung as a bias on the foreign relations of the country; there could be no recognition of Hayti, nor even of the American colony of Liberia; and the world was given to understand that the establishment of free labor in Cuba would be a reason for wresting that island from Spain.

SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY

The country, believing in the strength and enterprise and expansive energy of freedom, made answer, though reluctantly, "Be it so; let there be no strife between brethren; let freedom and slavery compete for the Territories on equal terms, in a fair field under an impartial administration;" and on this theory, if on any, the contest might have been left to the decision of time.

DRED SCOTT DECISION

The Chief Justice of the United States, without any necessity or occasion, volunteered to come to the rescue of the theory of slavery. And from his court there lay no appeal but to the bar of humanity and history.

TANEY AND SLAVE RACES

Moreover, the Chief Justice, in his elaborate opinion, announced what had never been heard from any magistrate of Greece or Rome—what was unknown to civil law and canon law and feudal law and common law and constitutional law; unknown to Jay, to Rutledge, Ellsworth, and Marshall—that there are "slave races."

SECESSION RESOLVED ON

The new school . . . resolved first to distract the Democratic party, for which the Supreme Court had now furnished the means, and then to establish a new government, with negro slavery for its cornerstone, as socially, morally, and politically right.

THE ELECTION

The most experienced statesmen of the country had failed; there was no hope from those who were great after the flesh; could relief come from one whose wisdom was like the wisdom of little children?

EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The choice of America fell on a man born west of the Alleghanies, in the cabin of poor people of Hardin country, Kentucky—Abraham Lincoln.

HIS EDUCATION

The Declaration of Independence was his compendium of political wisdom, the Life of Washington his constant study, and something of Jefferson and Madison reached him through Henry Clay, whom he honored from boyhood. For the rest, from day to day, he lived the life of the American people; walked in its light; reasoned with its reason; thought with its power of thought; felt the beatings of its mighty heart; and so was in every way a child of nature—a child of the West—a child of America.

HIS PROGRESS IN LIFE

. . . in 1861, with no experience whatever as an executive officer, while States were madly flying from their orbit, and wise men knew not where to find counsel, this descendant of Quakers, this pupil of Bunyan, this child of the great West, was elected President of America.

HE GOES TO WASHINGTON

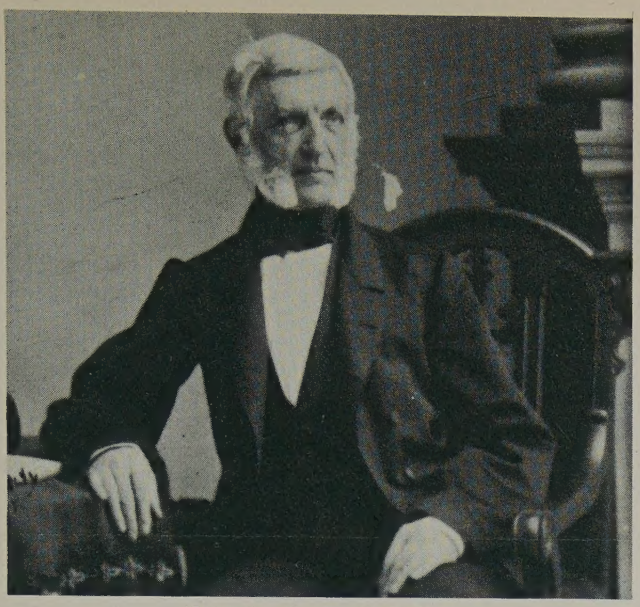
. . . he left Springfield, which for a quarter of a century had been his happy home, to the crowd of his friends and neighbors whom he was never more to meet, he spoke a solemn farewell.

IN WHAT STATE HE FOUND THE COUNTRY

The great Republic seemed to have its emblem in the vast unfinished Capitol, at that moment surrounded by masses of stone and prostrate columns never yet lifted into their places; seemingly the monument of high but delusive aspirations, the confused wreck of inchoate magnificence, sadder than any ruin of Egyptian Thebes, or Athens.

HIS INAUGRATION

. . . the new President, speaking to the people on taking the oath of office, put aside every question that divided the country and gained a right to universal support by planting himself on the single idea of the Union.



From the Meserve Collection

George Bancroft
From an original negative by Brady

UPRISING OF THE PEOPLE

It is the glory of the late president that he had perfect faith in the perpetuity of the Union. . . . Whatever there was of truth and faith and public love in the common heart broke out with one expression. The mighty winds blew from every quarter to fan the flame of the sacred and unquenchable fire.

THE WAR A WORLD-WIDE WAR

For a time the war was thought to be confined to our own domestic affairs; but it was soon seen that it involved the destinies of mankind; its principles and causes shook the politics of Europe to the center, and from Lisbon to Pekin divided the Governments of the world.

GREAT BRITAIN

But its Government was become a Government of land, and not of men; every blade of grass was represented, but only a small minority of the people.

HER SENTIMENTS

They had not one word of sympathy for the kind-hearted poor man's son whom America had choosen for her chief; they jeered at his large hands and long feet and ungainly stature; and the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made haste to send word through the palaces of Europe that the great Republic was in its agony, that the Republic was no more, that a head-stone was all that remained due by the law of nations to "the late Union."

HER POLICY

The Prime Minister in the House of Commons, sustained by cheers, scoffed at the thought that their laws could be amended at our request so as to preserve real neutrality; and to remonstrances now owned to have been just, their Secretary answered that they could not change their laws *ad infinitum*.

RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND

. . . but the best bower anchor of peace was the working class of England, who suffered most from our civil war, but who, while they broke their diminished bread in sorrow, always encouraged us to persevere.

NOTE: "The British minister in Washington thought the speech hostile and unfriendly, and on the 28th of the month Lord John Russell called at the American Embassy in London to lodge a formal note of protest. When Russell had been British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Bancroft told Congress, he viewed the United States as 'the late Union,' and he had made haste to spread his opinion of it as such throughout Europe, hampering Lincoln's diplomatic efforts a great deal. Adams wrote in some concern to the historian, begging him to explain or to retract his remarks. 'As for the British,' replied Bancroft, 'if he had heard anything which displeased him he had only himself to blame; knowing that the gentleman might be present at the session, he had asked Seward to request him not to come.' Citing Russell's own official correspondence during 1861 the speaker proved that the Secretary had used the word 'late' four times in referring to the Union, and with a touch of arrogance, he told Adams, 'Pray send Lord Russell a copy of this letter, which he is at liberty to publish, and I consider myself equally at liberty to publish his letter, to which this is a reply. Nothing more was heard from Lord Russell.' " Russel B. Nye: *The Biography of George Bancroft*, page 234.

FRANCE AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE

The policy regarding further colonization of America by European Powers, known commonly as the doctrine of Monroe, had its origin in France; and, if it takes any man's name, should bear the name of Turgot.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON AND MEXICO

. . . word was brought us, in the moment of our deepest affliction, that the French emperor, moved by a desire to erect in North American a buttress for imperialism, would transform the republic of Mexico into a secundo-geniture for the house of Hapsburg . . . so that the imperial system of Mexico, which was forced at once to recognize the wisdom of the policy of the republic by adopting it, could prove only an unremunerating drain on the French treasury for the support of an Austrian adventurer.

NOTE: "Bancroft, protested the Austrian Minister Baron von Wydenbruck, referred to Emperor Maximilian of Mexico as an 'adventurer.' Was it not true, replied the State Department with delicate irony, that in 1846 Austria declared itself completely uninterested in Mexican affairs." Russel B. Nye: *The Biography of George Bancroft*, page 234.

THE PERPETUITY OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS

A free State once truly constituted should be as undying as its people; the republic of Mexico must rise again.

THE POPE OF ROME AND THE REBELLION

The blessing of the Pope of Rome on the head of Duke Maximilian could not revive in the nineteenth century the ecclesiastical policy of the sixteenth; and the result is only a new proof that there can be no prosperity in the State without religious freedom.

THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

The President was led along by the greatness of their self-sacrificing example; and as a child, in a dark night on a rugged way, catches hold of the hand of its father for guidance and support, he clung fast to the hand of the people, and moved calmly through the gloom.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

After vain resistance, Lincoln, who had tried to solve the question by gradual emancipation, by colonization, and by compensation, at last saw that slavery must be abolished or the Republic must die; and on the 1st day of January, 1862, he wrote liberty on the banners of the armies.

RUSSIA AND CHINA

Russia, whose emperor had just accomplished one of the grandest acts in the course of time by raising twenty million bondmen into freeholders, and thus assuring the growth and culture of a Russian people, remained our unwavering friend. From the oldest abode of civilization, which gave the first example of an imperial government with equality among the people, Prince Kung, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, remembered the saying of Confucius, that we should not do to others what we would not that others should do to us, and in the name of the Emperor of China closed its ports against the war ships and privateers of "the seditious."

CONTINUANCE OF THE WAR

The war continued, with all the peoples of the world for anxious spectators. Its cares weighed heavily on Lincoln, and his face was plowed with the furrows of thought and sadness. With malice toward none, free from the spirit of revenge, victory made him importunate for peace; and his enemies never doubted his word or despaired of his abounding clemency.

LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

And at the moment of the height of his fame, to which his humility and modesty added charms, he fell by the hand of the assassin; and the only triumph awarded him was the march to the grave.

THE GREATNESS OF MAN

Not in vain has Lincoln lived, for he has helped to make this Republic an example of justice, with no caste but the caste of humanity.

THE JUST DIED FOR THE UNJUST

When I think of the friends I have lost in this war—and every one who hears me has, like myself, lost some of those whom he most loved—there is no consolation to be derived from victims on the scaffold, or from anything but the established union of the regenerated nation.

CHARACTER OF LINCOLN

The habits of his mind were those of meditation and inward thought, rather than of action. He excelled in logical statement, more than in executive ability. He reasoned clearly, his reflective judgment was good, and his purposes were fixed; but, like the Hamlet of his only poet, his will was tardy in action; and for this reason, and not from humility or tenderness of feeling, he sometimes deplored that the duty which devolved on him had not fallen to the lot of another. He was skillful in analysis; discerned with precision the central idea on which a question turned, and knew how to disengage it and present it by itself in a few homely, strong old English words that would be intelligible to all. He delighted to express his opinions by an apothegm, illustrate them by a parable, or drive them home by a story.

PALMERSTON AND LINCOLN

Palmerston is a shining example of the ablest of a cultivated aristocracy; Lincoln is the genuine fruit of institutions where the laboring man shares and assists to form the great ideas and designs of his country.

CONCLUSION

As the sum of all, the hand of Lincoln raised the flag; the American people was the hero of the war; and therefore the result is a new era of republicanism.

The memorial service which began at 12:30 p.m. came to an end at 3:25 p.m. when the Rev. Dr. Gray, Chaplain of the Senate gave the benediction. Then the members of the Senate, preceded by the president *pro tempore*, retired from the Hall and the Speaker of the House called the House of Representatives to order. Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, presented the only item of the agenda; a resolution of thanks to Hon. George Bancroft for "the appropriate memorial address" and "that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication." And then, on motion of Mr. Washburne of Illinois (at 3:35 o'clock) the House adjourned.

A. Lincoln
Manner of Buoying Vessels

(*Continued from the January*, 1958 *Issue*)

The specifications for Lincoln's patent follow:

"To all whom it may concern:

"Be it known that I, Abraham Lincoln of Springfield, in the County of Sangamon, in the State of Illinois have invented a new and improved manner of combining ad-

justable buoyant air chambers with a steamboat or other vessel for the purpose of enabling their draught of water to be readily lessened to enable them to pass over bars, or through shallow water, without discharging their cargoes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making a part of this specification. Similar letters indicate like parts in all the figures.

"The buoyant chambers A, A, which I employ, are constructed in such a manner that they can be expanded so as to hold a large volume of air when required for use, and can be contracted, into a very small space and safely secured as soon as their services can be dispensed with.

"Fig. 1, is a side elevation of a vessel with the buoyant chambers combined therewith expanded;

"Fig. 2, is a transverse section of the same with the buoyant chambers contracted.

"Fig. 3, is a longitudinal vertical section through the centre of one of the buoyant chambers, and the box B, for receiving it when contracted, which is secured to the lower guard of the vessel.

"The top *g*, and bottom *h*, of each buoyant chamber, is composed of plank or metal, of suitable strength and stiffness, and the flexible sides and ends of the chambers, are composed of india-rubber cloth, or other suitable water-proof fabric, securely united to the edges and ends of the top and bottom of the chambers.

"The sides of the chambers may be stayed and supported centrally by a frame *k*, as shown in Fig. 3, or as many stays may be combined with them as may be necessary to give them the requisite fullness and strength when expanded.

"The buoyant chambers are suspended and operated as follows: A suitable number of vertical shafts or spars D, D, are combined with each of the chambers, as represented in Figs. 2 and 3, to wit: The shafts work freely in apertures formed in the upper sides of the chambers, and their lower ends are permanently secured to the under sides of the chambers: The vertical shafts or spars (D, D,) pass up through the top of the boxes B, B, on the lower guards of the vessel, and then through its upper guards, or some other suitable support, to keep them in a vertical position.

"The vertical shafts (D, D,) are connected to the main shaft C, which passes longitudinally through the centre of the vessel—just below its upper deck—by endless ropes *f*, *f*, as represented in Fig. 2: The said ropes, *f*, *f*, being wound several times around the main shaft C, then passing outwards over sheaves or rollers attached to the upper deck or guards of the vessel, from which they descend along the inner sides of the vertical shafts or spars D, D, to sheaves or rollers connected to the boxes B, B, and then rise to the main shaft (C,) again.

"The ropes, *f*, *f*, are connected to the vertical shafts at *i*, *i*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. It will therefore be perceived that by turning the main shaft C, in one direction, the bouyant chambers will be expanded into the position shown in Fig. 1; and by turning the shaft in and opposite direction, the chambers will be contracted into the position shown in Fig. 2.

"In Fig. 3, *e*,*e*, are check ropes, made fast to the tops of the boxes B, B, and to the upper sides of the bouyant chambers; which ropes catch and retain the upper sides of the chambers when lower sides are forced down, and cause the chambers to be expanded to their full capacity. By varying the length of the check ropes, the depth of immersion of the bouyant chambers can be governed. A suitable number of openings *m*, *m*, are formed in the upper sides of the buoyant chambers, for the admission and emission of air when the chambers are expanded and contracted.

"The ropes *f*, *f*, that connect the main shaft C, with the shafts or spars D, D, (rising from the buoyant chambers,) may be passed from one to the other in any direction that may be deemed best, and that will least incommode the deck of the vessel; or other mechanical means may be employed as the medium of communication between the main shaft and the buoyant chambers, if it should be found expedient.

"I shall generally make the main shaft C, in as many parts as there are corresponding pairs of buoyant chambers, so that by coupling the sections of the shaft together, the whole of the chambers can be expanded at the same time, and by disconnecting them, either pair of chambers can be expanded, separately from the others as circumstances may require.

"The buoyant chambers may be operated by the power of the steam engine applied to the main shaft C, in any convenient manner, or by man power.

"Where the guards of a vessel are very high above the water, the boxes B, B, for the reception of the buoyant chambers when contracted, may be dispensed with, and the chambers be contracted by drawing them against the under side of the guards. Or, protecting cases may be secured to the under sides of the guards for the reception of the buoyant chambers when contracted.

"When it is desired to combine my expansible buoyant chambers with vessels which have no projecting guards; shelves or cases must be strongly secured to their sides for the reception of the buoyant chambers.

"I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do not intend to limit myself to any particular mechanical arrangement, in combining expansible buoyant chambers with a vessel, but shall vary the same as I may deem expedient, whilst I attain the same end by substantially the same means.

"What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by letters patent, is the combination of expansible buoyant chambers placed at the sides of a vessel, with the main shaft or shafts C, by means of the sliding spars or shafts D, which pass down through the buoyant chambers and are made fast to their bottoms, and the series of ropes and pullies, or their equivalents, in such a manner that by turning the main shaft or shafts in one direction, the buoyant chambers will be forced downwards into the water and at the same time expanded and filled with air for buoying up the vessel by the displacement of water; and by turning the shaft in an opposite direction, the buoyant chambers will be contracted into a small space and secured against injury.

A. Lincoln.

Witness:
Z. C. Robbins,
H. H. Sylvester."

The original Lincoln model does not embody all of the features noted in the specifications. For example, no provision is made in the original model for the application of "the power of the steam engine applied to the main shaft C," to expand the buoyant chambers. Likewise, the boxes B, B, for the reception of the buoyant chambers when contracted, do not appear on Lincoln's original model. However, Lincoln explained that the buoyant chambers could be expanded manually and that boxes for the buoyant chambers could be dispensed with if they were contracted and drawn against the under side of the guards.

The specifications for Lincoln's patent were published in 1850 in the "Report of the Commissioner of Patents for The Year 1849. Part I, Arts and Manufactures, Washington: Office of printers to House of Representatives. 1850." Lincoln's invention is described on page 262.

Lincoln's patent was for a period of fourteen years, expiring in the year 1863, without renewal. For a period of time the "western steamboat" was exhibited by the patent office, in a case designated as "Marine", and when Lincoln was installed as the Sixteenth President it is related that he had a messenger locate the model and bring it to the White House. Perhaps Lincoln derived a great deal of pleasure in seeing once against the model and exhibiting it before his friends. Later it was placed more conspicuously on exhibit in what was then known as the "Washington Case" at the patent office. Today the ship model is prominently displayed at the Smithsonian Institution.

When Lincoln applied for this patent the best mode of travel was by boat and the population of the nation was largely centered along the narrow fringe of the ocean and on navigable rivers. Railroads soon diverted traffic from the rivers, and Lincoln got involved deeper than ever into law and politics. Attorney Z. C. Robbins was of the opinion that Lincoln never received as much as a dollar for his patent number 6,469 "Improved Method of Lifting Vessels Over Shoals."